

Message Text

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TAGS: ELAB VE

SUBJ: WOMEN TRADE UNIONISTS MEET IN CARACAS

1. FIVE HUNDRED WOMEN TRADE UNIONISTS FROM THE "FREE AND DEMOCRATIC" CONFEDERATION OF VENEZUELAN WORKERS (CTV), THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC CONFEDERATION OF AUTONOMOUS UNIONS (CODESA), AND THE COMMUNIST SINGLE CONFEDERATION OF VENEZUELAN WORKERS (CUTV) MET IN CARACAS APRIL 10-12 FOR "THE FIRST UNITED NATIONAL ENCOUNTER OF WOMEN WORKERS." THE CARACAS MEETING WAS THE CULMINATION OF A SERIES OF REGIONAL MEETINGS HELD EARLIER IN THE YEAR AND PREPARATORY FOR THE FIRST VENEZUELAN CONGRESS OF WOMEN SCHEDULED FOR MAY 21-25.

2. CONFERENCE ORGANIZERS CONFIRM THE ATTENDANCE OF OBSERVERS FROM BOTH THE CUBAN LABOR CENTRAL (CTC) AND ORIT. CUBAN OBSERVERS WERE DIGNA CIRES ARVELLA, CHIEF OF THE DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN'S AFFAIRS OF THE CTC AND MIRIAM BUERGO BETANCOURT, SECRETARY OF WOMEN'S AFFAIRS OF THE NATIONAL SUGAR UNION OF CUBA. ORIT OBSERVERS WERE LEONOR QUINTANA AND JOSEFINA ANDERSON. THE ORIT DELEGATES RETURNED TO MEXICO UNEXPECTEDLY THE MORNING AFTER THE MEETING ENDED WHILE THE CUBAN DELEGATION HAS REMAINED IN VENEZUELA.

3. SIGNIFICANT RESOLUTIONS OF THE MEETING INCLUDED A CALL FOR TRADE UNION UNITY IN VENEZUELA AND A SECLARATION THAT ACCESS TO FAMILY

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PLANNING INFORMATION IS A RIGHT OF ALL WOMEN AND MUST BE INCLUDED IN THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE STATE.

4. COMMENT: INCLUSION OF BOTH VENEZUELAN COMMUNISTS AND CUBAN OBSERVERS IN THE MEETING IS AN INDICATION OF THE GROWING CONFIDENCE OF DEMOCRATIC ELEMENTS IN THE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT THAT THEY CAN DEAL WITH AND BEAT THE COMMUNISTS AT THEIR OWN GAME. ORIT PARTICIPATION WAS SURPRISING GIVEN THE PRESENCE OF THE CUBANS. THE ORIT DELEGATES MAY NOT HAVE KNOWN OF THE CUBAN INVITATION PRIOR TO ARRIVAL IN VENEZUELA AND THEIR SUDDEN DEPARTURE AT THE END OF THE MEETING WITHOUT CONTACTING EITHER THE LABOR ATTACHE OR THE AIFLD CPD MAY HAVE BEEN CONNECTED WITH THE CUBAN PRESENCE.
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